



Lesson Plan

Fort Detail

Grades

4, 5, 6

Subjects

Language Arts, Math, Reading, Science, Spelling,
U.S. history

Time allotted

60 minutes

Setting

Classroom, home

Group size

No limit

Skills

Reading historic material, performing measurements and conversions,
and analyzing social differences in historic periods

Methods

Students will work with authentic recipes from the Civil War and
determine how they are similar to recipes of today.

Materials

Recipe from A Country Kitchen 1850: Cookbooks from home or
library, Ingredients as stated in recipes

Keywords

Hardtack
Receipts
Recipe
Saleratus

Objectives

At the end of the activity, students will be able to:

- *Describe the type of cooking done during the Civil War time period.*
- *Explain how modern day recipes are comparable adaptations of previous eras.*
- *Share their knowledge of cooking and the cooking experience with others.*



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Following the Battle of Stones River in 1863, the Union troops occupied Murfreesboro. The city experienced much destruction due to the Union occupation. Many homes were torn down for the wood; food and crops were taken to feed the troops. The courthouse was used to house soldiers and some prisoners.

In January of 1863, outside of Murfreesboro, General Rosecrans' troops began construction on an earthen fort. The soldiers worked day and night to complete the fort in June. When completed, the earthen fortress enclosed 200 acres of land. It was named after General Rosecrans and was designed to house 50,000 troops as well as provisions for 90 days. The lunettes were designed so that the infantry and artillery could easily defend Murfreesboro from within the earthworks. Fortress Rosecrans protected a Union depot. Its fortified depot distributed and housed supplies, weapons, ammunition, and food. It had an army hospital for wounded soldiers. It also protected two important transportation systems: the Nashville Pike and the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad; and it had the Stones River as a water supply. It also had cannons that supposedly were pointed at Murfreesboro's courthouse in case of a Confederate attack.

Only 3,000 feet of the original 14,000 feet of earthworks remain intact today at Fortress Rosecrans. Most of the ruin is due partly to the encroachment of the city of Murfreesboro and partly to the constant wearing away of the soil by the weather. Native plants are being planted to help keep the remnants of the fort in place.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- Give groups of students paper sacks with materials and instruct them to make a fort. When completed, have the students describe the shape, materials used, and purpose of their fort.
- Brainstorm and list structures used for protection and the types of materials used to build the structure.

ON-SITE ACTIVITIES

- Pick up a copy of the Fortress Rosecrans Self Guided Tour at the Visitor Center.
- In groups, students complete the Scavenger Hunt worksheet.
- Discuss and review findings of Scavenger Hunt
- Follow-up Activities
- Design an edible fort that would protect railroads, roads, and rivers much like Fortress Rosecrans
- Compare /contrast design and materials of structures used for protection (ex. castles, forts, homes with basements) — How do we use materials and structures today?
- Write a story about a soldier's life at Fortress Rosecrans during its construction
- Write a skit as a reporter interviewing General William Rosecrans, a soldier working on the construction, a citizen of Murfreesboro, etc. and perform for class.
- Assign students an area on a topographic map and have them design their own fortress.

RESOURCES

Cozzens, Peter. *The Battle of Stones River*, National Parks Civil War Series. Eastern National, 1995.

Fortress Rosecrans and Redoubt Brannon brochures, National Park Service

APPENDIX
Fortress Rosecrans:
Scavenger Hunt

Complete the following questions using primarily the Wayside exhibits.

1. How long do you think it will take to walk 0.6 miles?
2. What time is it now?
3. How many miles of earthen works were there?
4. The earthen fort was designed to shelter what size army?
5. Along with soldiers, how many days of food or provisions will it hold? How long in months?
6. In 1863, how many cannons were ready to defend the fortress?
7. What were the lunettes used for? How many did Fortress Rosecrans have?
8. What foods were stored at Fortress Rosecrans?
9. Which army and campaigns used the supplies stored at Fortress Rosecrans?
10. According to A. S. Bloomfield, how long would a family of 10 persons be able to live off the provisions stored in Fortress Rosecrans?
11. What three objections did the soldiers have?
12. List five ways you observed or read about in the exhibits that the fortress is being preserved.

APPENDIX
Fortress Rosecrans:
Scavenger Hunt
answer key

Complete the following questions using primarily the Wayside exhibits.

1. How long do you think it will take to walk 0.6 miles?
various
2. What time is it now?
various
3. How many miles of earthen works were there?
three miles
4. The earthen fort was designed to shelter what size army?
50,000
5. Along with soldiers, how many days of food or provisions will it hold? How long in months?
90 days (3 months)
6. In 1863, how many cannons were ready to defend the fortress?
50
7. What were the lunettes used for? How many did Fortress Rosecrans have?
artillery platforms, 10
8. What foods were stored at Fortress Rosecrans?
flour, hay for horses, corn, coffee, rice, sugar, salt, tea, vinegar
9. Which army and campaigns used the supplies stored at Fortress Rosecrans?
General Rosecrans during Tullahoma and Chattanooga campaigns
10. According to A. S. Bloomfield, how long would a family of 10 persons be able to live off the provisions stored in Fortress Rosecrans?
2,465 years
11. What three objections did the soldiers have?
 - a. *It was Sunday.*
 - b. *It was muddy.*
 - c. *It was work and they enlisted to fight not work.*
12. List five ways you observed or read about in the exhibits that the fortress is being preserved.
 - a. *Stay on walkway*
 - b. *Planted native plants*
 - c. *Leave the earthwork alone*
 - d. *Roots of bushes and trees help keep slopes of the work from deteriorating*
 - e. *Federal laws protect the ruins*